



Security Council

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Letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith three statements by James Wapakabulo, Chairman of the Committee on the Region, regarding the continued clashes in Kisangani and the repeated violations of the ceasefire by Rwanda (see annexes I to III).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter, together with its annexes, issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations



Annex I to the letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement on the situation in Kisangani

Following the clashes in Kisangani on 5 May 2000, it was agreed that the best way of putting an end to this problem was the demilitarization of Kisangani, and to this effect an agreement was reached between the two armies and a withdrawal plan agreed upon.

In accordance with this withdrawal plan, Kisangani was zoned and the demilitarization was to be carried out in phases.

Phase 1 involved the demilitarization of zone 1, which is the Bangokha airport-La Forestiere-Lubutu junction areas, which was supposed to take five days, followed by the demilitarization of zone 2, which was to have started on 5 June 2000, including the town — SimiSimi airport and Kapalata.

A few days ago the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) complained to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) about the surrounding of the vehicle of the sector commander of Kisangani by the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), which was a provocative act.

On the morning of 5 June 2000 at 0745 hours, a UPDF Land Cruiser, coming from a routine logistical run at Bankokha and escorted by a MONUC vehicle, came under small arms fire just before Kabondo junction, and was hit by a shell, which destroyed it. The driver is missing and preliminary information is to the effect that he was removed and murdered in cold blood by RPA.

A UPDF officer aboard a MONUC vehicle proceeded to town only to discover that the joint command centre established by the agreement and located in town, where two senior UPDF officers were deployed, was surrounded by RPA forces.

The officer in the MONUC vehicle proceeded to Kapalata and reported:

- (a) The destruction of the UPDF vehicle by RPA;
- (b) The siege of the command centre by RPA;
- (c) The shooting of a UPDF soldier at Tchopo Bridge and discharging of his gun by an RPA force dug in near the bridge, contrary to the demilitarization agreement.

UPDF's advance to the junction one kilometre from Tchopo Bridge was in response to RPA fire.

These irresponsible and provocative actions of RPA are consistent with the previous conduct of RPA in Kisangani in August 1999 and May 2000.

The Government of Uganda condemns in the strongest terms this aimless and criminal provocation against an army committed to withdraw from Kisangani.

The Government of Uganda calls upon the Government of Rwanda to respect its commitment to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the Rwakitura joint declaration and the withdrawal plan.

The Government of Uganda expresses its disappointment at the failure of the United Nations to condemn up to now these irresponsible and provocative actions committed by RPA in the presence of United Nations personnel.

With regard to the current clash in Kisangani, Uganda has proposed to MONUC:

1. An immediate ceasefire;
2. Simultaneous withdrawal of RPA and UPDF forces from their current positions, to SimiSimi or Gouche in the case of the RPA, and to Kapalata in the case of the UPDF;
3. Such withdrawal is to be carried out during the day and under the supervision of MONUC.

Uganda remains committed to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the plan for the demilitarization of Kisangani as the only viable way forward in resolving the Congo crisis.

(Signed) **James Wapakabulo**
Chairman
Committee on the Region

Annex II to the letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement on the clashes in Kisangani on 8 June 2000

Pursuant to the implementation order for the withdrawal and demilitarization of the town of Kisangani of 21 May 2000; and the Uganda and Rwanda ceasefire agreement of 6 June 2000:

1. In the spirit of the above-mentioned, Uganda wishes to observe a unilateral 24-hour ceasefire provided that a United Nations military observer team establishes a presence on the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) side.
2. In order to ensure that the ceasefire holds, UPDF is prepared to ignore sporadic shelling of its positions, but only if such shelling does not amount to preparation for a ground attack.
3. Uganda reiterates its total commitment to the aforementioned protocols and the Lusaka Peace Accord on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(Signed) James Wapakabulo
Chairman
Committee on the Region

Annex III to the letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement on the clashes in Kisangani on 9 June 2000

Following Uganda's proposal for a unilateral ceasefire in Kisangani yesterday, a tele-conference was held at 1400 hours (Uganda time) on 8 June 2000, in which the following individuals participated:

1. The President of Uganda
2. The President of Rwanda
3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan
4. Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Nations, Richard Holbrooke
5. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Susan Rice
6. Gayle Smith, a security official from the White House
7. Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Bernard Miyet
8. Ambassadors of the United States in Kigali and Kampala.

It was agreed that:

- (a) The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) would commence a ceasefire at 1600 hours Kisangani time (1700 hours Uganda time);
- (b) To ensure that the ceasefire holds, sporadic shelling be ignored;
- (c) Should there be need for an offensive, such offensive should be ordered by the respective commanders-in-chief;
- (d) This order to be communicated to field commanders immediately.

At 1600 hours (Kisangani time) in total disregard for the ceasefire agreement resulting from the tele-conference, RPA launched a massive and persistent attack on all UPDF positions, lasting three and a half hours. UPDF, remaining on its defence, repulsed all the attacks.

This morning, 9 June 2000, RPA launched further attacks on our positions, which have also been repulsed. While Uganda, in good faith, unilaterally declared a ceasefire, to take place upon the establishment of an observer presence on the UPDF side by the United Nations, RPA has persistently taken hostile measures to frustrate the United Nations deployment of the observers.

The Government of Uganda once again condemns, in the strongest terms, the Government of Rwanda for the flagrant breach of an agreement reached by all the parties that participated in the tele-conference and Uganda's unilateral offer of a ceasefire of yesterday.

(Signed) James **Wapakabulo**
Chairman
Committee on the Region
